

April 8, 2009

The Board of Public Works & Safety met at 4:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Fuelling and Higgins attending. Others attending were Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Comm. Maynard; Supt. Givens; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Attorney Higgins; Jerry Funkhouser, David Frye, Loren Evans, Jesse Montgomery, Cindy Bippus, Jeff Angel, Dr. Keith Spurgeon, Randy Boyer – MSD of Mount Vernon; Adell Jeffries; Gordon Jeffries; Gail and Craig Carlisle; Geno Rush – R & R Quality Trees; Bldg. Comm. Sherry Willis; Rick Bowman; Stacey Bruce; Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting, Sal-Leigh Jeffries and Steve Burris.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Higgins moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Fuelling moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

#### \*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Tucker stated, as they wait for Miss Jeffries to arrive, he will update the Board on the Safe Route to School grant. He added he signed a contract today with Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates to do the engineering work. He then stated they will now hear the reports of the Departments.

Chief Beloit stated as they had discussed at their last meeting about the payback ordinance, he has still been doing some work and research on that. He added he is thinking they should change the timeframe from three years to four years and change that payback amounts to \$8,000 in the first year; \$6,000 the second; \$4,000 the third; and \$2,000 in the fourth year. He then stated it costs the city approximately \$43,000 every time a trained officer leaves the force.

Board member Fuelling stated they have discussed this, and unfortunately there is no ideal fix to this situation. He added he would like the Board to look at not only the payback ordinance changes, but also incentives to get the officers to stay, but he agrees, they have to do something. It is imperative.

Sal-Leigh Jeffries arrived at the meeting.

Chief Beloit agreed they do need to figure out some ways to keep the officers here.

Board member Higgins asked if any have paid the city back ?

Chief Beloit replied Officer Bratton has been here less than three years, but since he has been chief (in the last ten years actually), they have lost 16 officers, 11 left for other employment.

Board member Higgins asked if Evansville has an ordinance like this ?

Chief Beloit replied no, but other communities the size of Mt. Vernon do.

Board member Fuelling stated once this hits the papers, etc. they will start to get feedback, but again, he really thinks they need some positive incentives, rather than a punishment to get folks to stay.

Chief Beloit added amending this ordinance is just the first step, there will be several, but this proposed change is a start and he is asking that the Board propose the change to the Council.

Board member Fuelling moved the Board of Works make a recommendation to the Council to amend the payback ordinance from three years to four years, and the payback schedule should be amended to \$8,000, \$6,000, \$4,000, and \$2,000; and that the Board also look at other possible incentives to help with retention. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated at this time, they will dispense with the regular Agenda and have a special presentation. He then asked Sal-Leigh Jeffries and Dr. Keith Spurgeon to approach the podium. He explained the city as well as the MSD of Mt. Vernon would like present Miss Jeffries with a special commendation for her quick response to the recent fire at the Jr. High. He added once Miss Jeffries smelled the smoke, not seeing evidence of a fire, she could have chosen to just ignore it, but she didn't. She called dispatch and reported it, thus saving the Jr. High from severe fire damage, as well as the Sr. High had the fire spread.

Dr. Spurgeon echoed Mayor Tucker's comments and he and the school board are very appreciative of Miss Jeffries actions.

Miss Jeffries was presented a certificate and then congratulated by the Board, Mayor Tucker, the school board, and audience.

At this time, Miss Jeffries, Gordon Jeffries, Adell Jeffries, Gail and Craig Carlisle, Jerry Funkhouser, Dr. Spurgeon, Loren Evans, David Frye, Randy Boyer, Cindy Bippus, and Jeff Angel left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now continue with the Department Head reports.

Chief Waters stated he would like permission to send one paid firefighter and two volunteers to fire school in Champaign, IL in late May. He added the class is free, they will only have to pay for meals and lodging.

Board member Fuelling moved permission be given, along with the use of the city credit card. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Waters continued by stating their air compressor has failed and the company they purchased it from has decided they will take responsibility for the failure and cover the repair costs. He added it should be back tomorrow. He then stated they have some pretty old pagers that are not functioning properly and he would like permission to purchase ten new ones.

Chief Beloit left the meeting.

Board member Fuelling asked the cost ?

Chief Waters replied \$500 each.

Board member Higgins asked if he had that in his budget ?

Chief Waters replied yes.

Board member Higgins moved permission be given. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously. He then asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Higgins stated she does not have a question but she would also like to commend the fire department for their quick response to the Jr. High fire, they did a great job.

Mayor Tucker and Board member Fuelling agreed.

Supt. Givens stated he is having some pumps issues at the B & M Lift Station on old Hwy 69. He added one pump is already out and he has a quote for the repair, \$2,293.30, from ITT, formerly Hydraserve.

Board member Fuelling that is not a bad price for a total rebuild.

Supt. Givens agreed and added there are also some issues with the Farmersville pump and O'Donnell also needs to be pulled and worked on.

Board member Fuelling moved Supt. Givens check the price for a new pump, and be allowed to purchase if it does not exceed the cost to repair by \$1,000; if so, repair the old one. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Supt. Givens continued by stating it is time for the state examinations, and the test will be given April 23 in New Albany. He would like permission for himself, Danny Moss, and Brandon Epison to attend and use the city credit card and city vehicle. He added he will be taking his personal vehicle as he test is later than the others, they can return when they have finished.

Board member Higgins moved permission be given. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously. He then asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Comm. Maynard reported next week it is time for the city's annual tree cuts. He stated he has the list made and has two quotes: R & R Quality Tree \$2,550; and Wabash Valley Tree Service \$3,500.

Board member Fuelling asked if some trees will actually be removed ?

Comm. Maynard replied yes

Board member Higgins asked how many trees they are talking about ?

Comm. Maynard replied 30.

Board member Higgins moved the Board accept the low quote of R & R Quality Tree. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Maynard stated he received a call late this afternoon from the Eagles about their rummage sale on Saturday. He stated they are requesting to barricade Water Street from College to Main from 6 am until 4 pm. He also stated that in the future, the city would like more notice.

Mayor Tucker questioned insurance ?

Attorney Higgins added they need to have a certificate on file with the Clerk-Treasurer.

Board member Fuelling moved permission be given. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Maynard continued his report by stating he received a call this morning from Troy Risk, Inc. asking permission to drill a core sample behind the old Claytons. He added the hole will be 4' in diameter and 60' deep – they would like to do this next week for “environmental testing”, around the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated they would be done in two to three hours.

Board member Fuelling stated they should have come in person for a request like this, he does not want to make a habit of this, he would like to know why they are doing the drilling.

Comm. Maynard stated he will tell them NO and that they need to come before the Board.

Board agreed to say NO to the request, they would like the firm to come before the Board for further explanation.

Comm. Maynard concluded his report by stating he would like to shop around for a new lawn mower. He added his department takes care of all the weed work orders, and by the time they get to them, they are over 3' high.

Chief Beloit arrived at the meeting.

Comm. Maynard added they also do the mowing around the new sign on the east side of town as well as mowing at the riverfront. He stated their old mower is not sufficient for all that they are doing.

Board member Fuelling stated getting quotes sounds like a good idea to him.

Comm. Maynard stated he would like to keep the mower they have, again, they get a lot of weed work orders.

Board member Fuelling again agreed that Comm. Maynard should shop around.

Board member Higgins agreed.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals ?

Attorney Higgins stated she has an issue she would like the Board to consider. As they are all aware, for some time, they have been working on trying to get rid of the silos on the riverfront. She stated she has put a bid packet together and she would like the Board to advertise for bidders to inspect, abate, demolish, remove, and level the silo area and the adjacent structures.

Board member Fuelling moved authorization to advertise be given, with bids to be opened May 21.

Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated listed on the Agenda under Audience is Steve Burris, but it does not appear that he is present. So, he stated next is Stacey Bruce, concerning relinquishing weed liens on 403 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bldg. Comm. Willis stated Rick Bowman is here representing the prospective buyer. She continued by stating June 2007 the property was foreclosed on and for some reason, it never went through, so Tammy Sheridan still owns it. She added Brock Riecken is interested in buying and restoring the property. She then stated the mortgage was released March 12, 2009, and if Mr. Riecken purchases the property, he will

be paying the back taxes (\$16,171.37 of which \$5239.44 is weed liens). She added she feels it would be in the best interest of the city to relinquish the weed liens, as has been done in the past.

Mr. Bowman stated the house has been an eyesore to the city for many years and has even been housing some homeless people.

Mayor Tucker stated he knows Mr. Riecken and Mr. Bowman will do a nice job on the restoration, but the Board needs some assurance that the work will be done in a reasonable amount of time.

Mr. Bowman replied they would begin within four weeks, as they hope to close on Monday.

Board member Higgins moved the liens be relinquished, pending substantial improvements are made to the property by June 1, 2009. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Steve Burris arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Givens stated he does have one more thing. A vendor has been coming around to some of the different departments inquiring about placing a candy/chip machine on the property, with proceeds to go to charity.

Mr. Bowman and Ms. Bruce left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker replied anyone interested should get with Attorney Higgins about any contract before they sign.

Mayor Tucker stated as Mr. Burris has arrived they will address his issue next.

Mr. Burris stated he would like the city to take over the cul-de-sac he lives on at the Country Club Condos. He added the city has taken over others in Rodney Cox's areas, as well as other cul-de-sacs, but not theirs. He added they get mail delivery, the city checks the lift station in the area almost daily, and he believes there may also be a storm sewer located underneath. He asked the Board to please give some thought to taking it over.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Fuelling asked the condition of the street ?

Mr. Burris replied it was just sealed a few years ago.

Comm. Maynard replied he has no idea how it was engineered.

Mr. Burris stated Jake Moll put it in, probably 25 or so years ago.

Comm. Maynard added there are no pot holes and it was recently sealed.

Board member Higgins stated she would like to wait two weeks to do some research on it, get the back history on it, etc. as she does not like the idea of taking over private drives.

Board member Fuelling stated he would also like to look at it with Comm. Maynard.

Board member Higgins again stated she would really like to research it.

Mr. Burris added they do not look at it as a private drive.

Mayor Tucker asked if there are water and/or sewer lines under there, and if the street sweeper or packer truck goes on it ?

Comm. Maynard replied their trash is brought up to Country Club Road.

Mayor Tucker stated they would just like to table this until the next meeting.

Mr. Burris thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker then stated again, the contract with BLA for engineering services on the Safe Route to School grant was signed today.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer